

Message Text

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SUBJECT: MARTIAL LAW LIFTED

1. SUMMARY. FIRST ACT OF CARAMANLIS' CARETAKER GOVERNMENT WAS TO LIFT MARTIAL LAW EXCEPT FOR PREFECT OF EVROS AND ISLANDS CLOSE TO TURKISH COAST. PM ADDRESSED NEW CABINET URGING NEW MINISTERS TO LIMIT ACTIVITIES TO URGENT PROBLEMS AND TO ASSIST IN IMPLEMENTING NATIONAL ELECTIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. PREMIER CARAMANLIS AND 19-MEMBER CABINET IN ITS FIRST ACTION AS SERVICE GOVERNMENT SIGNED PRESIDENTIAL DECREE LIFTING MARTIAL LAW (STATE OF SIEGE) EFFECTIVE 1200 NOON OCTOBER 9. FOR REASONS OF NATIONAL SECURITY MARTIAL LAW WILL REMAIN IN FORCE IN PREFECTURES OF EVROS AND ISLANDS OF LESBOS, CHIOS, SAMOS, RHODES AND KOS. MILITARY COURTS WILL CONTINUE TO TRY CASES BEFORE THEM ONLY IF ACCUSED ARE MILITARY PERSONNEL; CIVILIANS WILL BE TRIED BY REGULAR CIVIL COURTS.

3. AT OPENING OF FIRST CABINET MEETING OF CARETAKER GOVERNMENT PM CARAMANLIS TOLD NEW MINISTERS THAT CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS HAS TAKEN PLACE IN COUNTRY'S POLITICAL LIFE IN LAST TWO MONTHS

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OWING TO RESPONSIBILITY AND INITIATIVE OF ARMED FORCES AND

MATURITY AND MODERATION OF GREEK PEOPLE. PM ADDED THAT SERVICE GOVERNMENT'S MANDATE IS TO ORGANIZE FREE ELECTIONS AND NOT TO ENTER INTO LONG-TERM PROGRAMS. HE CONCLUDED BY COUNSELING MINISTERS TO CONDUCT THEMSELVES IN MANNER TO AVOID CRITICISM AND COMPLAINTS FROM POLITICIANS IN ELECTORAL PERIOD.

4. IMPACT OF LIFTING MARTIAL LAW IS AS IMPORTANT PSYCHOLOGICALLY AS JURIDICALLY. ARRESTS AND TRIALS OF CIVILIANS UNDER MARTIAL LAW JURISDICTION CEASED AS PRACTICAL MATTER WHEN CARAMANLIS CAME TO POWER AND FREEDOM OF PRESS, SPEECH AND RIGHT TO ASSEMBLY WERE RESTORED AT THAT TIME. PSYCHOLOGICAL UPLIFT EMANATES FROM PUBLIC RELIEF AT REMOVAL OF LAST VESTIGE OF MILITARY GOVERNMENTS AND ASSURANCE THAT NATION HAS RETURNED TO TRADITIONAL CIVIL LEGAL CODE. WITH LIFTING OF MARTIAL LAW AND ITS LAW-AND-ORDER MINDED MINISTER OF PUBLIC ORDER SOLON GHIKAS WHO REMAINS IN CARETAKER GOVERNMENT, GOG CONTINUES IN GOOD POSITION THROUGH REGULATIONS AND DISCIPLINED SECURITY FORCES TO MAINTAIN PUBLIC ORDER AND SECURITY.
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